ERIE COUNTY, NY

The Coalition of Positively Charged People
A Coalition to Enable Household Battery Recycling

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

My project aims to serve the residents of Erie County to change the way that people dispose of single-use household batteries by establishing a comprehensive battery recycling program in which people will have a convenient and free way to recycle their batteries. Batteries should be recycled in the cleanest, most environmentally responsible way, while recovering a maximum amount of what makes up the batteries (like zinc, steel, manganese). Then finally, the recovered components should be reused. The battery-recycling program should be a clean waste stream, a closed loop system.

Today, there is a lack of adequate infrastructure for disposal of alkaline batteries. This project will entail the proper set up of a system and resources for appropriate disposal and recycling methods. In order to address many of the issues that this project poses: legislation, recycling facility, collection locations and upcycling possibilities, I will conduct a series of conversations. These conversations will be with groups such as staff from the Science Museum; Zoo; UB professors; Scouts; Amherst Waste & Recycling Committee and Buffalo environmental groups. From these I will create a “Coalition of Positively Charged People”, who will create the Erie County Household Battery Recycling system.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

This project would ideally start in Erie County and spread throughout the state as we create the infrastructure for battery recycling.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

Create a website
Create digital and conventional presentation
Apply for grants
Make presentations
Build a coalition

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Website, Program Funding, Partnerships, Volunteers

FUNDING RANGE

$1,000 - $5,000 for outreach campaign expenses

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA PLAN ACTION

One Region Forward

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

About the Champion...

Cynthia Frame-Endres
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Cynthia is on the Waste and Recycling Committee for the Town of Amherst. Active in Scouting, she taught the “Sustainability” merit badge to Boy Scouts, and recently completed Cub Scout Leadership as Webelos Den Leader and Assistant Pack Leader. Cynthia is trained as a Preservation Librarian and Archivist, and has established library preservation programs at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and the research library in the Museum of Modern Art. Continuing her passion for libraries, for several years Cynthia organized parent volunteers for the library program at Heim Elementary school. She recently created an “Archives: Secrets Revealed” workshop for students.